**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**
**CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**
**CONNECTICUT / RHODE ISLAND**

# FENCE

**(Feet)**
**CODE 382**

## DEFINITION

A constructed barrier for livestock, wildlife or people.

## PURPOSES

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to facilitate the application of conservation practices that treat the soil, water, air, plant animal and human resource concerns.

## CONDITIONS WHERE THIS PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice may be applied on any area where control of livestock, wildlife and / or access by people is needed. Fences are not needed where natural barriers will serve the purpose.

## CRITERIA

Fencing materials shall be of a high quality and durability, and the construction performed to meet the intended management objectives.

Fences shall be positioned to facilitate management requirements.

Use acceptable fencing designs with standard or conventional barbed or smooth wire, suspension, woven wire, or electric fences to control the animal(s) or people of concern and meet the intended life of the practice.

Height, number, and spacing of wires will be installed to facilitate control and management of the animal(s) and people of concern.

For domestic livestock, the following fence criteria or equivalent shall be used:

Dairy Cows – Three or four wire

Heifers / Bulls – Four or five wire

Sheep / Goats – Woven wire

Hogs – Woven wire plus one bottom wire

Pleasure horses – Woven wire plus one top board or all boards

Combination of livestock – Woven wire plus one top and one bottom wire

Stockade fencing made of wooden posts and boards or recycled materials may also be installed providing it serves the intended resource concern.

Height, size, spacing and type of posts will be used that best provides the needs for the style of fence required and is best suited for the topography of the landscape.

When fencing is installed to exclude wildlife from crops or for rotational grazing, the installation may be either fixed (permanent) or portable (temporary).

The following criteria shall be used for deer exclusion applications:

<u>Permanent Fencing</u>

A. High tensile electric fences conform to many different designs to meet specific needs. Strict adherence to construction guidelines concerning rigid corner assemblies and fence

configurations is required. Typical life span is 20 to 30 years. Some specific variations of these type of fence are:

- Offset or double fence
- Vertical deer fence
- Slanted seven wire deer fence

B. Woven wire fencing; eight (8) feet high woven wire with two (2) strands of smooth wire at nine (9) feet and ten (10) feet.

Temporary Fencing

A. Baited temporary electric fencing with one (1) strand of 17 gauge smooth wire coated with peanut butter and vegetable oil.

B. Temporary electrified polytape or polywire fencing with peanut butter / vegetable oil bait.

C. Barrier fencing including individual wire cages or plastic tubes.

Acceptable design references for deer fencing include Publications 812, 814, 816, and 820 by the Cooperative Extension System, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV (http://www.wvu.edu/~exten/), and publications and papers from the Wildlife Damage Management Program at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/wildlifedamage/).

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Consider installing fences in locations that will facilitate maintenance, avoiding irregular terrain and/or water crossings.

Consider wildlife movement needs when locating fences.

Consider the use of temporary baited electric fencing for deer and woodchucks during snow free periods.

Consider livestock management, handling, watering and feeding when locating fences.

Boundary fences shall comply with state laws and standards for construction.

Where applicable, clear right-of-ways will be established which will facilitate fence construction and maintenance.

Consider soil erosion potential when planning and constructing a fence on steep slopes.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Prepare plans and specifications for specific field sites based on this standard and appropriate state or local statutes or laws. To the extent practical, specifications shall conform to NRCS National Engineering Handbook (NEH) Parts 642 and 643 (formerly NEH Section 20).

**AS BUILT DRAWINGS**

As built drawings shall be prepared showing all fence elements as actually installed and a copy shall be provided to the owner / operator upon construction completion.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

At a minimum, the operation and maintenance plan should specify inspection of fences after storm events and in the spring of the year after frost has left the ground. Maintenance and repairs will be performed as needed.